

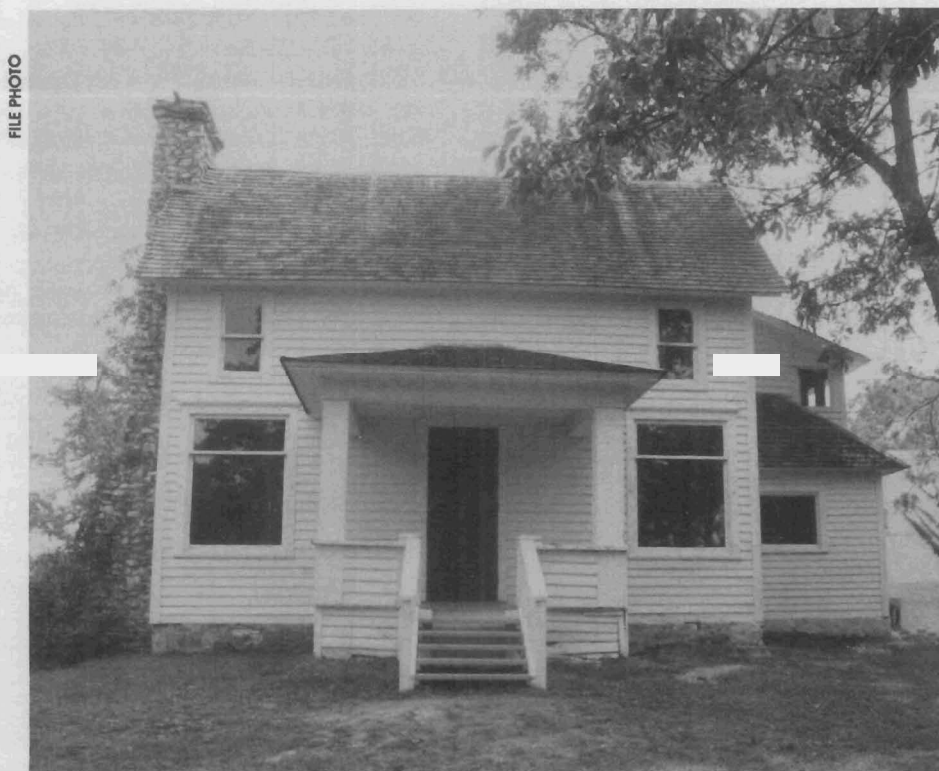
preservation issues

NEWS FOR THE PRESERVATION COMMUNITY

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

★ Vol. 1, No. 2 ★

Wilder House Slated For Landmark Status



FILE PHOTO

The Laura Ingalls Wilder House near Mansfield

The National Park Service, for the second time in recent months, has announced its consideration of a Missouri building as a National Historic Landmark. The sprawling white frame farmhouse near Mansfield, home to Laura Ingalls Wilder for 63 years, may soon be the recipient of the nation's highest honor for historic properties.

Presently bungalow in style, the residence began as a two-room house constructed by Laura and Almanzo Wilder in 1895 using lumber and fieldstone from the surrounding farm. A series of additions were completed by 1912 and give the house its current irregular shape.

The modest Wright County homestead is nationally significant as the residence of one of America's most famous authors of

children's literature. In this house, beginning at the age of 65, Wilder wrote the *Little House* series of children's books which tell of her life on the frontier as her family homesteaded in Wisconsin, Kansas, Minnesota, and South Dakota. The books illustrate the struggles and hardships as well as the joys of pioneer life encountered by Laura between the ages of five and 18.

The *Little House* series is largely autobiographical; Laura's parents and her three sisters all played major roles in her books, as did frontier life in the mid-west. Like many pioneer families, the Ingalls were highly interdependent and almost entirely self-sufficient as a family unit. They built their own homes, grew and preserved their own food, and sewed their own clothes.

As most of the characters in Wilder's books are female, the *Little House* series provides important insight into the role of pioneer women. As they moved westward into the American frontier, both men and women were forced to alter their lifestyles and their attitudes about woman's role in the family and in society. For example, despite the Ingalls family's marginal existence on the prairie, Ma initially tried to restrict her daughters' unladylike activities, like helping to stack hay, and promote female propriety. She eventually realized, however, that her pioneer daughters would have to acquire more traditionally male skills if the family was to survive on the frontier.

The *Little House* books have won numerous awards for excellence; they have been translated into 26 languages; and copies sold now total over 20 million. Today, 25 years after Wilder's death, her books still retain their international popularity. — *Karen Grace*

The Laura Ingalls Wilder House is located on Highway A, one mile east of Mansfield. It is open to the public from April 1-Nov. 15, seven days a week. Hours vary. Call (417) 924-3626 for information or to arrange group tours. There is a small admission charge.

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March/April 1991

**Deputy
State
Historic
Preservation
Officer**

The Green Decade has made us increasingly aware of an important new benefit of historic preservation – both the demolition of older buildings and their replacement with new ones have a serious negative impact on the environment.

While preservation is earth friendly, demolition and new construction result in major costs for the earth. Some of the environmental consequences are:

- the consumption of fossil fuel energy to demolish, haul away debris, manufacture, and transport new materials to the site (a 1978 National Trust for Historic Preservation study determined that production and assembly of seven bricks required an energy expenditure equal to a gallon of gasoline);
- the debris resulting from demolition adds to the “trash crisis;”
- new raw materials must be extracted from the earth, depleting the world’s reserves.

We encourage you to support building recycling; the earth can no longer afford a “throwaway” mentality. The price is much too high. – *Claire Blackwell, Deputy State Preservation Officer (DSHPO)*

**National
Register
Historic
Places**

This is a milestone year for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Twenty-five years ago this year, President Lyndon Johnson signed into law the National Historic Preservation Act. Among other provisions, the act authorized the Secretary of the Interior to maintain the National Register (NR), a list of properties significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture that are worthy of preservation.

The same day – October 15, 1966 – that the Preservation Act was signed, the first Missouri properties were entered in the NRHP; these included the Arrow Rock Historic District, Eads Bridge, the George Washington Carver National Monument, the Mark Twain Boyhood Home, and the Wilson’s Creek National Battlefield. Since 1966, over 950 additional properties representing more than 9,000 individual buildings, structures, objects, and sites have

been honored by their inclusion in the NR. These properties illustrate nearly 10,000 years of Missouri history and prehistory, from Graham Cave in Montgomery Co, first inhabited by Stone Age Missourians in approximately 8,000 B.C., to the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial National Historic Site (the Gateway Arch) in St. Louis completed in 1965.

For more information on the NR, write or call Steve Mitchell, National Register Coordinator at (314) 751-5365. – *Steve Mitchell*

**Certified
Local
Government**

We welcome Excelsior Springs and Cape Girardeau to Missouri’s Certified Local Government (CLG) Program; they are Missouri’s 15th and 16th CLGs. The cities join 14 municipalities in the Missouri network which includes Blue Springs, Clarksville, Fredericktown, Independence, Joplin, Kansas City, Kirkwood, Lee’s Summit, Liberty, Poplar Bluff, St. Joseph, St. Louis, University City, and Washington. CLGs represent a distribution of metropolitan and outstate communities with a wide range of populations, from Clarksville (pop. 585) to the City of St. Louis (pop. 452,801).

The purpose of the Missouri CLG Program, which began in 1985, is to expand the federal and state preservation network by creating an official mechanism for the participation of local governments. Legislation is pending which would allow program participation by county governments as well as municipalities (see Legislation).

If you are interested in further information on the Certified Local Government Program, call (314) 751-7862 or write Judith Deel, Local Government Coordinator. – *Judith Deel*

**Historic
Preservation
Fund
Grants**

We are pleased to announce the following Fiscal Year 1991 Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) grant awards:

Triad Research Services for an archaeological survey of unmarked human burial sites in Northwest Missouri – \$7,000

Show-Me Regional Planning Commission for nine National Register nominations in Lexington – \$3,302

City of Washington Historic Preservation Commission for a Phase IV architectural/historical survey of Washington – \$26,165

Archaeological Survey, University of Missouri-St. Louis for a Middle Meramec archaeological survey – \$11,935

Lincoln University Social Behavioral Science Department for an archaeological survey of unmarked human burial sites in mid-Missouri – \$6,424

Terrell L. Martin for a survey of sheltered sites in the Loutre River Drainage, Montgomery County – \$5,250

Town of Augusta for a survey of historic Augusta – \$9,660

St. Louis County Department of Parks and Recreation for a rural survey of schools and churches – \$12,603

St. Charles County Planning Department for a survey and inventory of the Daniel Boone Historical Area – \$13,310

Center for Archaeological Investigations, Southern Illinois University for a preliminary survey in Scott County – \$9,044

South Central Ozarks Council of Governments for a survey of Ozark native rock structures – \$15,000

Main Street Nevada for a survey of downtown Nevada – \$9,723

City of St. Joseph for a survey of the Penn Neighborhood – \$6,300

Landmarks Association of St. Louis for a survey of Clifton Heights – \$12,482

Landmarks Commission of Kansas City for a preservation plan for Kansas City – \$28,643

City of Liberty for a Liberty multiple property nomination to the National Register – \$7,825

Samuel F. Freeman II for a nomination to the National Register of the Gillioz Theater – \$1,000

City of Campbell for a Campbell downtown historic district nomination to the National Register – \$2,750

St. Louis City-St. Louis Corporation for a local preservation commissions workshop, videotapes, and an Old North St. Louis local historic district designation – \$9,930

City of St. Joseph for six National Register training workshops – \$1,800

City of Lee’s Summit to hire a historic preservation coordinator – \$1,248

City of Poplar Bluff for professional staff assistance for local preservation program – \$4,750

City of Jefferson for a Central East End survey of Jefferson City – \$11,760

For more information about HPF grants, call Jerald Stepenoff, Grants Manager, (314)751-7861. – *Jerald Stepenoff*

Dig It ✂

The Archaeological Society of Missouri (ASM) has recently implemented a new education and public outreach program which includes:

- A public lecture series in various locations (see "Dates"). Those attending will hear about the prehistory of their region of the state, have artifacts identified by professional archaeologists, and be invited to record archaeological sites.
- Production and distribution of an informational poster.
- Installation of a toll-free ASM "Hotline". Call 800-472-3223 to record a site or for information about Missouri archaeology.

The ASM and its now parent organization, the Missouri Archaeological Society (MAS), were founded in 1934-35 for the purpose of locating and recording all of the state's archaeological sites. Located on the University of Missouri-Columbia campus, the Archaeological Survey has, from its

inception, encouraged professionals, avocationalists, and the general public to record archaeological sites for inclusion in the Survey files which now contain information on more than 28,000 Missouri sites. The exact locations of recorded sites are not available to the general public, due to the potential of looting and other damage, but are available to serious researchers.

The ASM and the Historic Preservation Program (HPP), Department of Natural Resources (DNR) entered into a cooperative agreement last year. Under the terms of the agreement, HPP provides financial support to ASM through an annual federal Historic Preservation Fund grant which assists the Survey in both its educational programs and primary mission of recording, processing, evaluating, and numbering newly recorded sites, and entering them into a computerized database. The ASM also provides site file information to state and federal agencies for compliance purposes, and to archaeological researchers.

For more information, call Gregory Fox, Manager, ASM, toll-free 800-472-3223. — *Gregory Fox*

If you want to —

- become fluent in the language of preservation . . .
- learn creative approaches for saving historic buildings . . .
- know what "works" in local fund raising . . .
- develop your lobbying skills . . .
- attract tourists to your community . . .
- experience historic Hannibal, Missouri

YOU NEED TO ATTEND:

**Missouri's Sixth Annual
Local Preservation Conference
Preservation Challenges: preserving,
promoting, persevering
Hannibal, April 6-7, Holiday Inn**

If you are new to the preservation community, this is the conference for you — just the introduction you need to get started.

If you are a preservation veteran, this is the conference for you — a perfect refresher course never hurt anyone.

Call (314) 751-7860 today for a conference brochure. — *Karen Grace*

MISSOURI HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE

The St. Joseph Duplex ca 1880-1920

Characteristics:

- Two attached single-family houses that are mirror images of each other.
- Usually two stories.
- Most often brick construction.
- Entrances centered or located in far left and right bays.
- Generally sited on a narrow city lot occupying the front of the lot.
- Occur in a variety of architectural styles popular during the period of construction.



Museum Hill Historic District

Conference Special Event Scheduled

Rockcliffe, the Cruikshank mansion, has been selected as the site of a special tour and reception April 5 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. for early arrivals to the Local Preservation conference. The Hannibal Arts Council will host the event and is currently restoring the 30-room Georgian mansion to its original splendor.

The elaborate home, containing many original furnishings, was designed with such innovations as electricity, pocket sliding doors, cedar-lined closets, walk-in closets with custom designed storage space, automatic off and on closet switches, brass thermostats, and sliding shutters and windows. Construction of the house began in 1898 and was completed in 1900.

Rockcliffe is located at 1000 Bird Street, Hannibal. Call (314) 221-4140 for more information.

Preservation Issues is funded by a grant from the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. Grant awards do not imply an endorsement of contents by the grantor. Federal laws prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, religion, sex, age, handicap or ethnicity. For more information, write to the Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, DC 20240.

Editor: Karen Grace
Designer: Musick & Co.

State Legislation Pending . . .

Senate Bill No. 124.

Sponsored by Sen. Harry Wiggins.

"AN ACT Relating to historic preservation." *Enabling legislation: to strengthen the ability of local governments, including counties, to establish preservation programs. Designates a state historic preservation officer (SHPO) by statute, outlines SHPO's duties, and formalizes the existence of the Missouri Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.*

Senate Bill No. 233.

Sponsored by Sen. Henry Panethiere.

"AN ACT To repeal four sections of a previously passed bill relating to unmarked human burial sites and to enact five new sections relating to the same subject." *Bill clarifies previous legislation related to unmarked human burial sites and adds a mechanism for civil action in cases of violation of the ACT.*

Senate Bill No. 75.

Sponsored by Sen. Henry Panethiere.

"AN ACT Relating to excavation of abandoned shipwrecks, with penalty provisions." *Bill regulates the excavation of historic shipwrecks to permitted professionals; regulates the export of salvage outside of the state; and provides penalties for noncompliance.*

To track the progress of pending legislation call the **Senate Hotline**, (314) 751-3824.

"Historic district ordinances frequently have several bases for enactment. They serve to preserve culturally and historically important aspects of the life of the locality, state or nation. . . . In so doing, they can provide viability and strength to the urban community as a whole." - Missouri Court of Appeals, *Lafayette Park Baptist Church v. Scott*, 1977

issues

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Historic Preservation Program
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102

DATES TO REMEMBER

★ March is Women's History Month! Check media for local events statewide.

Public Archaeology Lecture Series March 23, Rolla. Call Archaeological Survey of Missouri **HOTLINE** 1-800-472-3223.

Introduction to Federal Projects & Historic Preservation Laws March 11-13, Kansas City, \$210. Call GSA Interagency Training Center, (703) 557-0986.

Kansas City Regional Office Open House March 14 All Day! 3800 S. Elizabeth Ave., Suite G, Independence. Call Beverly Fleming, (816) 795-8655.

Route 66 Meeting March 23 12 p.m. at Zeno's in Rolla. Call Wayne Bales, (314) 364-7656.

Annual Local Preservation Conference, "Preservation Challenges" April 6-7, Hannibal. Call (314) 751-7860.

Missouri Archaeological Society and Missouri Association of Professional Archaeologists Annual Meeting April 5-7, Days Inn, Columbia. Call toll-free 1-800-472-3223 for more information.

Missouri Alliance for Historic Preservation Annual Meeting April 6, Hannibal. Call (314) 635-6877.

Missouri Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Meeting May 10. For more information, call (314) 751-5365.

National Preservation Week, "Celebrate YOUR Heritage" May 12-18. Plan now for local celebrations. Call (314) 751-7959 for ideas.

★ 25th Anniversary of the National Register of Historic Places, 1991.

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